AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 : (Canceled)

Claim 18 : (Currently Amended) A finishing agent for producing artificial flowers from natural plants with keeping the natural states of the plants, the finishing agent which consists of a solvent containing:

a) a lower alcohol of C1 - C3; and

b) at least one of glycol ethers selected from the group consisting of diethyleneglycol monomethylether, triethyleneglycol monomethylether, diethyleneglycol monoethylether, triethyleneglycol monoethylether, diethyleneglycol monobutylether, triethyleneglycol monobutylether, polyethyleneglycol monoalkylether, dipropyleneglycol monomethylether, polypropyleneglycol monoalkylether and poly(oxyethylene - oxypropylene)glycol monoalkylether in a weight ratio of 1 - 99 : 99 -1.

Claim 19 : (Canceled)

Claim 20 : (Previously Presented) The finishing agent according to claim 18, wherein a polyhydric alcohol and a glycolether are used in combination as the b) component.

Claim 21 : (Previously Presented) The finishing agent according to claim 18, wherein a dye is added and mixed.

Claim 22 : (Previously Presented) The finishing agent according to claim 18, wherein an oxidation inhibitor is contained.

Claim 23 : (Previously Presented) The finishing agent according to claim 20, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butyldiglycol, glycerin, thiodiethylene glycol, monoethyl glycol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, poly(oxyethylene - oxypropylene)glycol, ethyldiethylene glycol, polyoxypropylenetriol, and poly(oxyethylene - oxypropylene)triol.

Claim 24 : (Withdrawn) A process for producing artificial flowers, wherein flowers or leaves of plants are dipped directly in a finishing agent consisting of a solvent containing a lower alcohol of C1 - C3 and at least one of glycol ethers in a weight ratio of 1 - 99 : 99 -1, and then they are dried, to be prepared to artificial flowers or leaves which can be preserved for a long time with keeping their natural states.

Claim 25 : (Withdrawn) A process for producing artificial flowers, wherein water in plants is substituted with a water-soluble and volatile organic solvent having a specific gravity smaller than water (A solution) and then, the organic solvent is substituted with a polyoxyethylene derivative solution (B solution), to prepare the fresh flowers of the plants to artificial flowers which can be preserved for a long time; and a finishing agent consisting of a solvent containing a lower alcohol of C1 - C3 and at least one of glycol ethers in a weight ratio of 1 - 99 : 99 - 1 is applied to at least a part of the surfaces of the fresh flowers treated with the polyoxyethylene derivative.